personnel of Signal Regiment who died in 1994 till date on compassionate grounds;

(b) the reasons for delay in appointing the dependents of deceased personnel and action contemplated against the officials responsible therefor, and

(c) by when the above appointments are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (c) Sir, only one case of compassionate appointment is pending in Signal Regiment of Station Headquarters, Delhi Cantt. Delay in offering appointment to the eldest son of the deceased Government servant is attributable, partly, to his insistence for the posts which were not available and partly, to his delayed completion of requisite formalities for which no official can be held responsible, as such. Appointment will, however, be offered after completion of requisite official action.

Unauthorise use of Defence land in Maharashtra

4154. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of growing instances of unauthorised use of Army land for commercial purposes brought to the notice of Government during the past five years, State-wise;

(b) the action taken thereon particularly in Maharashtra;

(c) whether Government have approved proposals for lease of defence land which is not in immediate use for the defence purposes, to the NGOs during past five years, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of similar proposals pending and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (d) Informaiton is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sale of fake letters for Army Jobs

4155. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Indian Express dated the 22nd March, 1997 regarding fake letters for Army jobs on sale;

(b) if so, the action taken against the culprits; and

(c) the measures taken to give wide publicity to Army recruitment procedures to prevent youths being cheated in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The culprits have been handed over by the Madras Regimental Centre, Wellington to the Police Station, Wellington for their investigation and further necessary action.

(c) Posters, Leaflets & brochures are being published by Army Headquarter giving recruitment procedures and these are widely distributed in various colleges, Schools and to State Authorities upto Tehsil levels through Zonal Recruitment Office & Branch Recruitment Offices.

Joining of Duties by Selected Candidates in Defence Depot

4156. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2601 given in the Rajya Sabha on 19th March, 1997 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that selected candidates in Group 'D' Post (Mazdoor) in Central Ordinance Depot, Shakurbasti, Delhi have been waiting long to join their duties after completing all selection formalities; and

(b) if not, the number of such candidates who have been allowed to join their duties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b) 31 vacancies of Mazdoor for direct recruitment had been released to Ordnance Depot, Shakurbasti by Army Headquarters on 30.8.1996 for recruitment action through Employment Exchange. When the selection was at the final stage, Joint Director (Employment), Government of the NCT of Delhi informed the Ordnance Depot, Shakurbasti vide letter dated 10.3.1997 that 22 candidates out of 31 had not been sponsored as per rules and their registration cards were not valid when their names were sponsored by the Zonal Employment Exchange. Action is being taken by the Directorate of Employment against the erring officials. Joint Director (Employment) has requested that appointment for the remaining 9 candidates may be made. Necessary action in this regard is being taken. Army Headquarters have asked Ordnance Depot, Shakurbasti, for initiating a fresh case for recruitment of balance 22 candidates ensuring that all the instructions on the subject are observed meticulously.

Improving Service Prospects of Examiners

4157. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Examiners, Welfare Association has recently submitted any memorandum;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to take any steps to improve their service prospects and promote/upgrade posts to remove stagnation prevailing in their cadres since their organisation was set up in 1949; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (d) The Association has submitted a representation reiterating their contentions which were contained in their memorandum addressed to Fifth Central Pay Commission for restructuring and improvement of their pay scales. The issues raised have already been considered by the Fifth Central Pay Commission who have made specific recommendations in para 63.24, in Chapter 63, Volume II of its report. The recommendations of the Pay Commission are under consideration of the Government.

Release of Defence Land to Karnataka Government

4158. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has requested his Ministry to release a portion of land belonging to Defence for the purpose of Ring Road in Bangalore;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry have agreed to release the land;

(c) if so, by when his Ministry are going to release the land; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Defence land measuring 17 acres has already been released and handed over to the Bangalore Development Authority.

(d) In view of reply to (b) above, question does not arise.